

The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1914.

THE PRISCO REPORT.

As a matter of course, somebody ought to go to jail for the actions which resulted in throwing the Prisco system into bankruptcy, and equally as a matter of course, nobody will.

It seems that the more business done by the system the faster it approached bankruptcy, frenzied finance having a greater room for play. It seems to have been a case of the higher they go the farther they fall. The more money the financiers received from the operation of the roads the more they had to mismanage, to juggle with, to pocket and to give to other financiers. Naturally the crash came, the wonder being that it was postponed for so long. The fact that under ordinary good management the system should have succeeded, and the fact that somebody did profit unduly while the system was nearing disintegration, prompted our opening remark that somebody ought to go to jail for the work.

But nobody will. Yet there is promise that repetition will be made impossible, or at least difficult, by the new trust laws recommended by President Wilson. Prohibition of interlocking directorates would no far toward preventing the recurrence of such juggling as characterized the conduct of the affairs of the Prisco. Syndicates and other railroads and other companies holding interest in the bankrupt road lost nothing by the bankruptcy. They gained and then threw the road into bankruptcy. They squeezed the orange dry, and are now dividing the peeling. These things were rendered easy by the presence of the Prisco board of capitalists and others, who, being interested also in other companies, borrowed from themselves to pay themselves; bought from themselves at a small rate and sold to others at a high rate; used their banks to take their worthless stock and to sell it to the investing public. But for interlocking directorates, much of the frenzied finance would not have been possible. Certainly, the actions which come perilously near to swindling would not have been so easy of accomplishment, and could not have been continued so long.

But the one law more than any other proposed that, if passed, will put an end to this kind of work is that providing for giving the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to regulate the financial operations of the railroads. The wrecking of the Prisco system was due almost entirely to the methods by which it was financed. Bad management in other directions was partly responsible, but that bad management was not of the physical operation of the roads. Bad finance was the cause, and if the Interstate Commerce Commission, which now exposes the facts, had possessed the power to make inquiry before instead of after bankruptcy, and had possessed the power to stop the atrophy which caused it, the result would have been averted.

President Wilson is lucky. This exposure by the commission is complete evidence that lack of power to investigate and to act earlier caused the crash, and will lend support to the bill conferring upon the commission the additional power advocated. Its need has been demonstrated conclusively only a few days after its advocacy.

THE END OF PULITZER.

The battleship you study in the boiler-room of the New York World you understand through its motive power. To know Joseph Pulitzer you must read the memoirs written by Allen Ireland, and printed in the Metropolitan Magazine.

It has been little short of remarkable that these articles, concluded in the current number, have not attracted more attention. They give a new view of Pulitzer, more intimate and more discerning than has been yet presented; they afford a brilliant character study of one of America's most remarkable men; they make intelligible the dynamic power of the New York World.

Pulitzer was the man. He made it, he dominated it. It thought his thoughts and exemplified his unshattered will. He so infused his spirit into it that it remains, as in his life, a most potent weapon for righteousness. And as it is one of the great newspapers of the English-speaking people, the biography of the man who ruled it is a lesson in newspaper management.

Mr. Ireland's articles should not remain in the files of a popular magazine, soon lost or forgotten. If on the basis of them and on other data at his disposal, Mr. Ireland writes a biography of the great man with whom he worked, he will put the reading public in his debt. Pulitzer's biography will be of fascinating interest, to write it, none is better qualified than Mr. Ireland.

Ordering those poor Mexican refugees to take a bath was an imposition upon prisoners of war violative of all the canons of civilized warfare.

A Frenchman paid \$5,000 for one dead. Huerta will soon be willing to give \$100,000 for a chance.

THE SPIRIT THAT COUNTS.

The spirit shown by the House of Delegates yesterday in passing the Weaver bill is the spirit that brings construction from difference progress from confusion. Men call that spirit compromise, mutual concessions, the removal of objections, but it has a higher, nobler name—patriotism.

The Times-Dispatch has every consideration for men who objected on tenable grounds to the passage of this bill. They are mistaken, but they are sincere, and as such, they are certainly entitled to their opinion. We have, in the same manner, nothing but praise for the men who led this fight for progress—men like Aubrey Weaver. But we have still higher praise for those men like Chaikley, Myers, Stearns, and the rest who opposed the form of the bill, but voted for it rather than see the object defeated.

Surely the manifestation of this spirit is a happy augury of the future. There are before the Assembly problems of weight and complexity; our whole tax code is to be revised, our election laws must be purified and strengthened, the fee system must be reformed, other questions scarcely less troublesome must be settled. Inevitably, in discussing these matters, there will be radical differences of opinion, even bitterness and hostility. But if, in all the debate, the one object be kept in view—legislation to meet present need and future wants—that spirit demonstrated in the vote yesterday will suffice to give us a constructive policy.

We do not expect members at once to agree. We should be alarmed if they did. But we are emboldened by the spirit of the House to believe that disagreement is not to thwart action in the Assembly of 1914. We anticipate acrimonious debate and earnest contention, but we can assure our readers, on the strength of what happened yesterday, that when the fight is ended and the time comes to vote, members are inclined to unite upon that which is necessary for the welfare and the progress of Virginia. If, as we fully anticipate, the Senate today accepts the House bill, we shall feel even more confident that the session of 1914 is to be one of constructive effort and successful labor for the welfare of the Commonwealth.

COMMISSIONER BUTTON.

To call for nominations for the office of Commissioner of Insurance in the Assembly yesterday was altogether useless. There was but one. By his faithfulness to his duty, his sincere constructive labor and his sheer ability, Joseph Button has earned the reappointment he received.

Mr. Button came to his present office with the reputation of being active in politics. It was expected that his appointment was a simple means of giving him a livelihood and leisure for the practice of politics. But he has deceived his friends not less than his enemies—if he has them. He has administered his office with efficiency, has given Virginia a front place in the rank of States with sane insurance laws, and he has done much to elevate the business which he directs.

None ever thinks of another for his post.

A RECIPE FOR RUIN.

If Virginia wants to lose her fertile fields and to destroy her forests beyond redemption, she can do so very easily. She has the recipe for ruin in her present failure to do anything to protect our forests from destruction and our rivers from floods.

Waste, wash and wreck has been the fate of many a Virginia mountain, many a Virginia farm. Pass along the Blue Ridge, and you will find bare, stark mountains standing out against the landscape, stripped of every tree, covered only with a struggling underbrush, a prey to every forest fire; pass down our river valleys, and you will find lowlands overflowed, creeks become canyons, fields washed to the barren rock.

All of this we owe to our foolish policy of destroying our original forests without thought of the future, without regard for the water they hold and the torrents they avert. We strip a mountain of trees, make impossible the growth of a new forest, leave the gullies to wash and the streams to run with every rain—and wonder why the soil disappears, wonder why the floods grow greater every year.

To protect our water supply and to make possible the growth of new timber, Virginia must begin a reforestation policy—one that will protect what we have while making possible the development of new timber tracts. To this end a bill has been introduced in the Senate by Blackburn Smith, which bill should be studied in the light of expert advice. The forestry board which it proposes should be nominated; our reckless policy should end and end now!

Woman speaker says that she hopes some day it will be fashionable to be sensible, and unfashionable to be foolish. If, at the same time, it is fashionable to be good and to dress modestly, women will be perfect, whether men show any improvement or not.

Platonic love is when a man thinks too much of a woman to risk losing her friendship by marrying her.

"In 400 years," says Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, "all America will be crazy." Are we to have a democratization of intellect, as well as of everything else?

One thing you can say about the man who tells you he is self-made. He has too much illal piety to blame it on his parents.

We see by the Newport News Times-Herald that the horse has "passed" again. He seems to be going around in a circle.

Since Huerta began to show signs of being unable to pay his debts European estimates of his strength have shown signs of undergoing a change.

WILSON AND THE TOLLS.

With an assurance which seems to leave no room for doubt, the New York World declares that President Wilson, during his recent confidential conversation with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, expressed disapproval of our law regarding the Panama Canal tolls. He stated, we are told, that he regards the provisions of the treaty as violated by the government policy, and that he heartily approves the Adamson resolution.

Regardless of whether Mr. Wilson said this or not, we hazard little in stating that he believes it. To our mind, there can be but one view of this question. "All nations" means precisely what it says in the treaty. Had Mr. Hay intended that the United States should be excepted from the tolls provision, he was too adroit a diplomat and too careful a writer not to say so. Had there been any evidence in any of the correspondence on the subject that gave the least basis for the claims made by the Taft administration, that evidence would long ago have been presented. We have nothing with which to substantiate the contention of this government beyond the fact that England cannot prove that language is not sometimes intended to deceive.

We believe Mr. Wilson takes this view—we cannot see how he could regard the matter in any other light. We hope a Democratic Congress will, of the same mind and will, at the least, pass the Adamson resolution.

The Rappahannock Rhapsodist

Game Laws.
These are solemn facts:
When for a thing's protection
Our Legislature acts,
It accomplishes protection
By imposing further tax.

We've protected our sportsmen
By this duly enacted law,
The game birds are destroyed
By a duly licensed man.
We've protected our sportsmen
By this duly enacted law,
By seeing that the "fellow"
Who exterminates them "pays."

It means more to the sportsman
Who is asked to do the same,
Very simple operation
Of the game laws, that we
The fellow who in autumn
Sallies forth with dog and gun,
Must pay the same as the sportsman
Who starts to have his fun.

The effect of which provision
Is that the sportsman who
Except to take his gun and dog
And get his money's worth:
In the game season lasts
He'll never lose a day.

For fear he will not get the worth
Of his gun and dog, he'll
And yet the game that's slaughtered
By a legal licensee
Is really just about as dead
As the game that's killed.

And while no doubt our furred and feathered
Prize game give their lives
Uncomplainingly if by that act
The old Dominion thrives,
You'll forgive us, if we say,
If this act is bound to term a
Effort to protect the varmints
By a sort of Taxidermy.

T. L. H.
King George, Va.

Queries and Answers

Will you publish Dr. G. W. Bagby's old verses "At Fillup Joaneses" for a number of readers who ask me to write for them and for myself?
MRS. C. H. I.

The "miserable ditty" celebrates the style of living "heto the war" in the Virginia of the time. The "focus" of the "pome" was one of the Jones estates, just below Rapidan, in Orange County.

When I wuz young and in my prime,
I had sum meat upon my bones;
I was a boy, and I was a girl,
At a place they call Fill Joaneses.

Two and twenty years ago it were—
I think it was by my grandsons,
That I set out from Lynchburg town
On a visit to Fill Joaneses.

Miss Baby she wuz with me, too,
And Willyum, brother uv Fill Joaneses,
Miss Jessie, with her eyes so blue—
Wuz all stayin' at Fill Joaneses.

Yung Fillup then were but a boy,
And Seldin, toddlin' over the stones,
And Seldin, toddlin' over the stones,
While a stayin' at Fill Joaneses.

"Tuz in the good ole days uv el—
We wuz Monks on our throats—
The crap wuz wuth its weight in gold
At the place they call Fill Joaneses.

Big Mister Willis, at the mill—
He had some meat upon his bones,
Frank Gnowl he chum the red bay hill,
And John, cum down to Joaneses.

Miss Mary Starnd, she wuz thar—
How mollish wuz her toanses!
Another gearl—that had black hair—
And meny mo', wuz at Fill Joaneses.

Sech dinnin' out and dinnin' in,
Sech drivin' over them rocky toanses!
My grandsons, they wuz all thar,
The way they lived aroun' Fill Joaneses.

Sech lam' and jolly—everything!
But I wuz usen to co'ns'panses!
Fat mawth wuz the truck, by Jint!
That laid me out at Fillup Joaneses.

For from that day untill this hour—
The south fact to all well known is—
My stomach, it was never better
And let it all at Fillup Joaneses.

Disney's at a fearful ill,
This made uv grunts and made uv croanses!
No time will sell that ar' hill,
That contrackid at Fill Joaneses.

My days is passed in constant pain,
And I am ever in the pain;
And oft I cuss, but cuss in vain,
That fatal summer at Fill Joaneses.

But seer'n I dux luv to eat—
Man wuzn't made to live on stoness!
And now I know 'twuz hard to beat,
That blessed summer at Fill Joaneses.

Ah! times is holy changed since then,
The Yanks has got us for their men,
Thair's not a man, not one in ten,
Lives like they lived at Fillup Joaneses.

Bad as I feel, if I could bring,
Them days again, I'd helsh my
Ed all my stummuk with mint sling,
And dine wunst mo' at Fillup Joaneses.

The good ole man is livin' still,
As long as ever in his bones;
Let him chum the red bay hill,
That laid me out at Fillup Joaneses.

So mote it be, so mote it be,
Thil deth shall hush uv all our
Croanses,
For not ill then will I agree
To cum no mo' at Fillup Joaneses.

Dutch Gap.
What is the origin of the name
"Dutch Gap"? Which side of the
James did the first of the battle
take on?

The place was so called from the
fact that a ditch made by the
British in 1781, and which was
the work was carried out for
about sixty yards. On the right bank

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

Fire.
The carpenter shop of George and John Gibson, on the corner of Cary and Sixth Streets, was damaged by fire. The loss was estimated at between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

In the Mayor's Court.
Eight negroes of both sexes were disarmed on the charge of unlawful assembly in the house of George Valentine, a white man. Valentine denied knowledge of the assembly, explaining that the house was a cook house for the negroes. The court accepted his explanation and dismissed the charges. A fine of \$10 imposed for violation of the law in placing a negro at the head of his business.

Two Confederate soldiers, Merriweather Quarles and Henry Gillman, sent on to grand jury on the charge of stealing a piece of calico, valued at \$200 in Confederate money, was arraigned on the charge of knocking down, and attempting to rob James Tyree, a white man. A witness testified that he heard a cry of "murder" when he immediately proceeded to the spot from which the alarm sounded, and found Tyree down with a knife in his back. The case was continued.

John C. Conners, charged with whipping his wife three times within an hour, was required to give \$200 security to keep the peace. A negro named Nathan, who had been employed at the Ballard House, was recommitted to jail to answer an indictment before the Hustings Court on the charge of stealing a watch and chain from Mrs. Roy, a boarder.

Richard and Washington, slaves, were ordered twenty-five lashes for stealing government iron.

Another postponement was made of the examination of Henry Hungerford, arrested on the charge of keeping a fare bank, in violation of the law. The difficulty in this case is in obtaining the attendance of the grand jury.

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Voice of the People

Driving Money Out.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir.—The proposition to make the banks collect taxes on money in and out of the State is a device to drive money out of the State. At the expense of advertising, the banks have gotten into circulation many a dollar utterly lost to business. The banks are not to be trusted. They are blind to all other considerations, if there were no tax on deposits, the banks would be able to pay out as much as they could get in. It is not to be expected that the banks will voluntarily give up the tax, then let the people vote to change it.

In 1904, the banks slipped through a bill appointing men to go around to banks and examine their books, who would have found out what the banks were doing. The bill was denounced all over the State, and soon declared unconstitutional. But in the meantime, banks in other States were sending out circulars inviting deposits.

How much hoarded money is ever reported? The banks are not to be trusted. They are blind to all other considerations, if there were no tax on deposits, the banks would be able to pay out as much as they could get in. It is not to be expected that the banks will voluntarily give up the tax, then let the people vote to change it.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir.—A man once had a tame bear, who was devoted to his master. One day he went to sleep, when a thief alighted on his back and crawled over it, troubled him in his sleep. When the bear saw this he took a rock and struck a vicious blow at the thief. The thief, with ease, dodged the blow, but the rock smashed the man's face.

Now, Mr. Editor, you know the story. It is very plain what kind of story this is. It is a story of a man who is a thief, and a bear who is a thief. The bear is a thief, and the man is a thief. The bear is a thief, and the man is a thief. The bear is a thief, and the man is a thief.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir.—I have just read carefully a copy of the "new game laws" now before our Legislature, and find three serious objections to it.

First, it is an unjust tax upon the farmer. The farmer who hunts for the privilege of hunting at all.

Second, to protect the squirrel, the country boy's sport, and charge him a dollar if he goes in his neighbor's woods, and to deprive him of the pleasure of chasing young rabbits, a "wheat-cutting time," would be equal to abolishing our playgrounds at the park children.

Third, the requirement of "written permission" is as unjust as it is foolish. In addition to imposing upon the farmer the burden of the cost of hunting on his land you have to produce a printed permit and be armed with a gun, pen and ink, and demand a signature and suggest that he draw a map of his farm to serve as a guide for the sportsman.

Recording secretary, O. F. Weisger, Esq., of Richmond.

Corresponding secretary, Dr. W. A. Carrington, medical director, Confederate States Army.

Directors, Surgeon-General Dr. C. B. Moore, Rev. M. D. Hoge, D. D., Rev. C. Minnigerode, Rev. J. L. Burrows, D. D., Colonel John T. Pickett, E. L. Hudson, Esq., John Enders, Esq.

Nearly 50,000 were merited.

The examination of witnesses for the Commonwealth in the Porter murder case was gotten through with this morning. The testimony for the defense will begin, after which the counsel for the prosecution and prisoner will commence their argument prior to submitting the case to the jury.

The farm recently occupied by Rev. Thomas P. Campbell, in Chesterfield County, and advertised by Messrs. Church and Adams, is to be sold at auction on the 24 day of February next, has been disposed of at private sale, and, therefore, will not be sold at auction.

Recaptured.
Another one of the eighteen Yankee prisoners who escaped some time since from Castle Thunder has been recaptured, and was returned to that institution last Thursday.

Religious.
A protracted meeting is in progress at the Grace Street Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Jeter, administered the ordinance of baptism Sunday evening in the presence of a crowded house. Rev. A. Broadus and A. E. Dickinson are assisting the pastor.

Amusements.
At the new Richmond Theatre, Miss Eloise Bridges has made a decided hit. In the play of "Marble Heart" on Monday night, her performance was well sustained by her, and every one was in raptures with her appearance and acting generally. The house was crowded to overflowing, and the audience was in the highest of spirits.

At Metropolitan Hall, the "Iron Clad Opera Troupe" are still performing to full audiences.

From Charleston.
Charleston, January 25.—Seven shells have been fired at the city since last report. Considerable activity has been observed among the fleet.

Matters in the Southwest.
Comes, Miss, January 25.—Colonel Jeff E. Forrest has captured Island No. 69, and all the negroes and manacled, killing fifteen and destroying the wagons.

From the Rapidan.
Orange Courthouse, January 26.—The enemy are moving some of their cavalry in the direction of Madison Courthouse. It is reported they have crossed the Rapidan River capturing some of our pickets. It is not believed to be anything more than a raid, and arrangements have been made to meet them.

Here's Hoping.
The best indications are that the relations between the government and the colored people will be more amicable and friendly than in the past. It is going to enjoy an era of peace and prosperity.—Bristol Herald-Courier.

A Chance for Fame.
The Virginia people of the people of Virginia is better public schools. It is a black shame that after forty years' existence, the public schools should have reached only a few months' term in most of the counties of the State and this short length of term was only paid for by the State and teachers. The man who comes before the Legislature with a measure asking for an appropriation sufficient to give a person of the State a school term of not less than eight months, whether the appropriation shall be \$500,000, is the man who will wake up the next morning and find himself famous. He will be the man who will really have done the great thing in the education of the people of the State, and the man whom the people of the State will always remember with grateful remembrance.—Lobanov News.

Doesn't Like This Bill.
Among the bills recently introduced in the Legislature is one prohibiting the movement of freight trains of more than fifty cars. Of course, there is no prospect of the passage of such a bill, but it is unfortunate that a member of the Virginia Legislature so clearly should indicate his prejudices by introducing it.—Petersburg Index-Appel.

News of Petersburg

The Times-Dispatch Bureau,
5 Bollingbrook Street,
Richmond, Va., January 27.
The annual meeting of the Retail Merchants' Association was held last night in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, and following the business session, a social gathering was held at the Stratford Hotel. Reports of last year's work were read, and the association accomplished a great deal for the advancement of the interests of the retail trade and those engaged in it, and that it is in position to continue the advancement of those interests along all lines. At the banquet a number of brief talks were made. Nearly every retail merchant in the city is a member of the association, and all have felt the benefit of its influence.

General News Notes.
Lionel Pittman, who was arrested in this city yesterday for the North Carolina authorities, was taken back to North Carolina yesterday. Pittman was taken from a man's pocket. Pittman was taken from a man's pocket. Pittman was taken from a man's pocket.

Equal Suffrage League to Begin Winter Lecture Season on Friday Night.
The equal suffragists of the city will begin their winter lecture campaign with a public meeting in the auditorium of the Jefferson Hotel on Friday night, at 8:30 o'clock.

The most interesting feature of the occasion will be an address by Judge Walter Clark, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, on "Legal Status of Woman." This address, in which he rehearses woman's position under ten law from the remote past to the present day, was recently delivered before the Legislature of North Carolina.

Justice Clark is also a noted writer, a most convincing speaker and an enthusiastic suffragist. He says that the history of the woman's struggle for vestige of slavery. As this is his first public appearance on the suffrage platform, he will be met by a large audience who will assemble to hear him.

A number of persons from Richmond and elsewhere, will occupy seats on the platform, and will be in a position to introduce the speaker. At the conclusion of the exercises, there will be an informal reception, presided over by Mayor and Mrs. W. C. Rife.

All suffragists are urged to attend, and a cordial invitation is extended to the public.

LICENSE FEE \$25
Ordinance Affecting Electrical Contractors Prepared by Subcommittee.

With only one change, the subcommittee appointed by the Ordinance committee to report on the matter last night recommended the adoption of a new ordinance relating to the licensing of electrical contractors and to the regulation of their work. The change was in the substitution of a license fee of \$25, instead of \$100, which had previously been determined upon. The electrical workers lost their right to have inserted a clause which would require journeymen to employ only journeymen, and provided one time, the City Attorney having handed down an opinion that this would be unconstitutional.

The new ordinance requires that theatres, hotels, churches, hospitals and other public buildings shall be wired in accordance with the code of electrical work. The change was in the substitution of a license fee of \$25, instead of \$100, which had previously been determined upon. The electrical workers lost their right to have inserted a clause which would require journeymen to employ only journeymen, and provided one time, the City Attorney having handed down an opinion that this would be unconstitutional.

TALKS ON FEEBLE-MINDED
Dr. Ames W. Peters, of Vineland, N. J., made an address on "Some Practical Considerations on the Problem of the Feeble-Minded" at the Chamber of Commerce, last night.

The lecture was given under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, and was attended by a large audience. The speaker, Dr. Peters, is a well-known authority on the subject of the feeble-minded, and his address touched upon the scientific researches of the past, and the practical application of the same to the present.

Dr. Peters is at the head of the laboratory department of one of the largest and best equipped hospitals in the country, and his address touched upon the scientific researches of the past, and the practical application of the same to the present.